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HOUSE BILL 1479

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Braddock and Peery.

Read first time January 30, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to dental licensure; adding new sections to chapter  
2 18.32 RCW; and repealing RCW 18.32.215.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.32 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            The purpose of section 2 of this act is to promote access by the  
7 public to quality dental services by providing for the licensure of  
8 dentists licensed in other states, waiving the examination requirement  
9 under certain conditions, and recognizing the validity of their  
10 credentials for practicing dentistry in this state. Consistent with  
11 the policy of the American dental association, the legislature finds  
12 that an evaluation of a practicing dentists's theoretical knowledge and  
13 clinical skills under certain conditions can provide as much protection  
14 to the public as would an evaluation based on examination.

1       The assurance of access by the public to affordable quality health  
2 care services, including dental services, is a paramount interest of  
3 the state in pursuing its obligation to protect and promote the public  
4 health and safety. In the interests of quality however, some  
5 regulatory policies are unduly restricting competition by limiting the  
6 number of practitioners available to serve the public, especially those  
7 licensed by other states. These restrictive policies tend to increase  
8 the costs of health care services that even further limit access. The  
9 legislature finds and declares that the quality of health care services  
10 is compatible with, and need not be compromised by, policies to promote  
11 public access to the needed health care services.

12       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.32 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14       (1) An applicant holding a valid license to practice dentistry in  
15 another state of the United States shall be granted a license by the  
16 department of health to practice dentistry in the state of Washington,  
17 without examination required by this chapter, on the payment of the  
18 required fees, if the applicant: (a) Has engaged in active practice or  
19 full-time dental education in the state of origin or under the auspices  
20 of the United States government for a minimum of five years; (b) has  
21 graduated from an accredited dental school; (c) is not currently the  
22 subject of final or pending disciplinary action for unprofessional  
23 conduct related to the practice of dentistry under the laws of the  
24 jurisdiction of origin; (d) demonstrates a basic knowledge of  
25 Washington law pertaining to the practice of dentistry in this state;  
26 and (e) has not failed the clinical examination of the state of  
27 Washington within the last three years.

1           (2) This section does not affect the authority for denial of  
2 licensure for unprofessional conduct under the uniform disciplinary  
3 act, chapter 18.130 RCW.

4           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   RCW 18.32.215 and 1989 c 202 s 30 are each  
5 repealed.